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## Second Year Results of the 4-H Swine Project

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## Second Year Results of the 4-H Swine Project

### **Abstract**

In 2001, a pilot project was conducted that sold pigs from the Lauren Christian Swine Research and Demonstration Farm to area 4-H youth. Youth from six counties bought pigs that were farrowed at the farm in January and February. The objectives of making pigs available were:

1. To help increase county fair swine numbers in selected counties.
2. To increase the number of young people with swine projects in southwest Iowa.
3. To help youth by providing a reliable, healthy, and high performing source of fairly priced pigs.
4. To enhance education and project knowledge.

### **Disciplines**

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

## Second Year Results of the 4-H Swine Project

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91 pigs on April 6, 2002. In total, the project made 199 pigs available to 38 youth for an average of slightly more than five pigs/4-H member.

### Introduction

In 2001, a pilot project was conducted that sold pigs from the Lauren Christian Swine Research and Demonstration Farm to area 4-H youth.

Youth from six counties bought pigs that were farrowed at the farm in January and February.

The objectives of making pigs available were:

1. To help increase county fair swine numbers in selected counties.
2. To increase the number of young people with swine projects in southwest Iowa.
3. To help youth by providing a reliable, healthy, and high performing source of fairly priced pigs.
4. To enhance education and project knowledge.

### Materials and Methods

This report covers the second year of the project. In 2002, youth from ten counties participated. Those counties were: Adams, East Pottawattamie, Fremont, Montgomery, Taylor, Wayne, Audubon, Cass, Harrison, and Mills.

Pig distribution was based on farrowing dates and county fair dates. Youth from counties with early fairs received pigs from the first farrowing, and youth from counties with later fairs received pigs from the second farrowing.

Pig pricing was based on a percentage of the July lean hog futures on the Friday before the Saturday pickup at the farm. The pigs were ear tagged and weighed on Friday before pickup. A lottery determined which pigs the 4-H member received. Twenty-one youth purchased 108 pigs

### Results and Discussion

The major educational component of this project was the mailing of two communications to the 4-H swine project members. In May, the area livestock specialist sent information on growth, nutrition, and swine facilities to the county offices for distribution to the participating 4-H youth. In June, the same method was used to explain pig preparation, acclimation to the county fair, and use of Paylean.

The pigs generally performed well in standardized fat-free lean gain per day on test (LGOT) contests using both ultrasound backfat and loin muscle area and measured data from ribbed carcasses. The pigs usually placed in the middle one-third of the competition. For example, in Adams County, the Lauren Christian research farm pigs ranked from 10th to 22nd place out of a total of 27 pigs. Using the LGOT model, the research farm pigs won the contests at the Fremont and Harrison County fairs in 2002. A common range across all counties for LGOT was .72 lbs/day to .89 lbs/day. Part of the variation was due to a wide range in feeding environments (38 different locations), as well as possible differences with ultrasound technicians and their equipment.

### Acknowledgments

Appreciation is extended to the Armstrong and Lauren Christian farm staff for their Saturday morning assistance in loading and transporting pigs to the distribution point.